



FROM AN SRO...

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Bike Club Rolls into Safety Education

“Nothing compares to the simple pleasure of a bike ride.” – John F. Kennedy

Any young person can describe how to be “safe” in a variety of situations, thanks to years of exposure to these messages: *Stop, Drop and Roll... Wear Your Seatbelt... Be Drug Free... Watch Out for Strangers... Look Both Ways before You Cross the Street... Don’t Play With Fire...* but what about enjoying the simple pleasure of cycling in a safe way?

The Fargo South Bike Club has advanced the mission of safe, confident cycling for youth with two recent projects, providing new opportunities in a community that has lacked a coordinated, sustained and effective bike safety program. These efforts are the spearhead for what could eventually renew interest in bicycle safety education for the Fargo-Moorhead region.

In July, several ELL students were invited to a week of cycling instruction at Fargo South High School. They learned bike handling and hazard avoidance skills, basic bike maintenance, principles of “vehicular cycling” and group rides on local routes. It was exciting to see their confidence grow as they learned new skills and especially rewarding to see their smiles when they “earned” their new bicycle on graduation day. A special thank you to Fargo Walmart stores for their generous donation of 7 new bicycles and refreshments for our participants!



Graduation day and new bicycles for ELL students.

We received good news in August – the Fargo South Bike Club, among 249 applicants nationwide, was awarded one of 25 federal Safe Routes to Schools “Mini-Grants” of \$1000, helping the club establish “Bruin Bike Buddies.”

The partnership joined middle school students from Carl Ben Eielson with Fargo South Bike Club members as bicycle safety mentors. Over the course of several meetings, South students helped their



South Bike Club members prepare for a group ride with their CBE Bike Buddies.

CBE bike buddies install headlights, taillights and warning bells purchased with the grant, and instructed them on safe bicycling skills. Other equipment furnished at no charge included bike helmets, locks and “Share the Road” bike safety materials. Several club-owned bikes were loaned to students who did not have one of their own.

Special recognition is well-deserved for our many program volunteers and supporters: Jim Keal, Fargo South Student Counselor; Rachel Jordan, Carl Ben Eielson School Resource Officer; Tara Morris, Fargo Police Crime Prevention Officer; Cristie Jacobsen, Fargo Police Cultural Liaison Officer; Breanne Schlenk, Fargo South Bike Club president; Paramount Sports; Fargo Walmart Stores; Great Northern Bicycle Company; Safe Kids Fargo-Moorhead; Fargo Public Schools and the Fargo Police Department.



Club members lead their “Bruin Bike Buddies” through Lindenwood Park on a beautiful autumn ride.